

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 are currently pending in this application. Claim 8 is amended. Claim 13 is added. Claim 7 is cancelled. No new matter is presented. The foregoing amendments and following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection and objection raised in the Office Action and to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the reconsideration and allowance of claims 8-13.

The drawings are objected to for containing informalities. Specifically, Figures 6 and 7 are objected for reference numbers 5 and 6 being referenced incorrectly. Replacements sheets amending figures 6 and 7 are respectfully submitted. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner further indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 28, 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the legible copy of WO 02/48059 was not provided. By this amendment, Applicant submits a legible copy of the WO 02/48059 patent.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fedorov et al. (G.B. Patent No. 2,289,099). The Examiner takes the position that all the features recited in claim 7 is recited by Fedorov. Applicants respectfully submits that claim 7 is cancelled. Therefore the rejection of claim 7 is moot. Claim 8 has been amended to be independent and to recite a beam shaping unit for shaping a ring-shaped beam bundle which has a central radiationless area. Since the Examiner has indicated that claims 8-12 recited allowable subject matter. Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to claims 8-12.

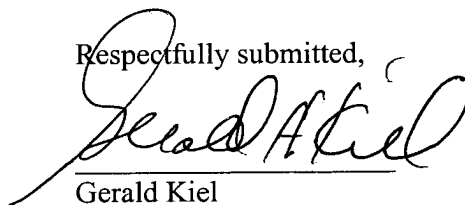
Claim 13 is added. No new mater is presented. Claim 13 is dependent upon amended claim 8. Therefore, Applicants request the allowance of claim 13.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants request the allowance of claims 8-13. Claim 8 is amended and claim 13 added. Claim 7 is cancelled. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figures 6 and 7 with the amended Figures 6 and 7 as provided in Replacement sheet 1 and 2. Figures 6 and 7 have been amended to properly designate elements 5 and 6. No new matter is presented.